COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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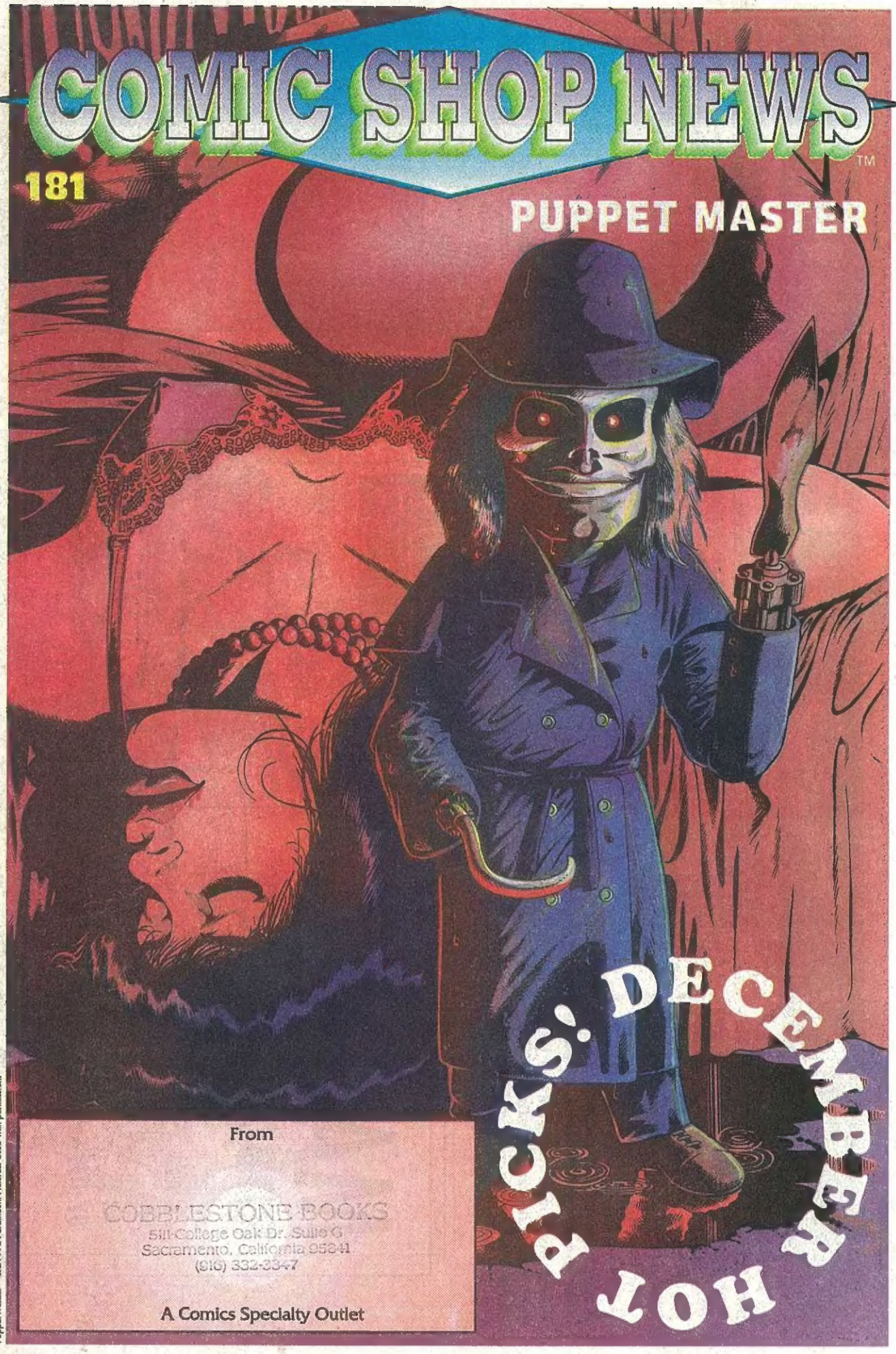

From

COBBLESTONE BOOKS
511-College Oak Dr. Suite G
Sacramento, California 95841
(916) 332-3347

A Comics Specialty Outlet

Puppet Master ™&©1990 Paramount Pictures. Used with permission.

Reality's A Challenge For The Challengers of the Unknown

We may remember them as heroes who lived on borrowed time--four men who survived almost certain death and went on to challenge death on an almost-daily basis.

So what do we know, anyway?

According to the new ***Challengers of the Unknown*** limited series, many of the things that we *thought* we knew about the Challengers weren't exactly correct. You see, a lot of that stuff was created for the Challengers of the Unknown licensed comic book, which was sold in the Challengers theme park along with Challengers dolls, t-shirts, action figures, videotapes, and more. The group has really settled into a pretty sedate--and lucrative--existence.

Then Challenger Mountain explodes, taking out the theme park and killing hundreds. And it looks like Prof is to blame. Prof can't be found, though--it appears that he and June may have died in the blast. But the remainder of the Challengers team will have to face some pretty tough times when they're charged

Challengers of the Unknown™ &©1990 DC Comics

with the deaths of all those innocent people. Who cares that they're found not guilty--in the public eye, they're responsible.

The Challengers of the Unknown plays with the comic book reality of the Challengers as we know them, while at the same time re-defining the characters and exploring the personalities of each. Ace is looking for meaning in life through mysticism; Red is a mercenary looking for action in Central America; and Rocky is a movie star who finds the bottle far too attractive. Now the trio has to pull together to find out what really happened to Prof--and what strange force is motivating seemingly normal people to commit mass murder, suicide, and a series of sociopathic crimes.

Challengers of the Unknown is written by Jeph Loeb, the author of the screenplays for ***Teen Wolf II, Commando,*** and ***Burglar.*** The art is supplied by Tim Sale, whose work has appeared in the pages of ***Grendel, Thieves World,*** and ***The Amazon***. ***Challengers of the Unknown*** will be an 8-issue New Format limited series. The first issue is slated for January 17th release; it is priced at $1.75.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Roger Rabbit, PI

Everyone's heard of ***Who Framed Roger Rabbit?***--but is the world ready for "Who Framed Rick Flint?" That's the story in ***Roger Rabbit #11***, scheduled for January release from Disney Comics. In this issue, written by the incomparable Peter David, Rick Flint is framed for art theft and it's up to Roger Rabbit to clear his name. Okay, so he's no Dick Tracy--he's better than nothin'! But will he be good enough to overcome Toyboy, Moptop, Ziptop, and Boneless Maloney? Find out next month!

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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12 • 12 • 90

Eternity and Full Moon Peg Subspecies to Follow Puppet Master

Full Moon Entertainment, the independent film company whose ***Puppet Master*** became Eternity Comics' first full-color comic book, is making a second foray into the comics field in early 1991. ***Subspecies,*** a vampire tale, will be a full-color miniseries beginning in May.

Subspecies focuses on two brothers, Stefan and Radu, who are both trying to gain control of the Bloodstone, a mystical source of vampiric strength and power. "It's a very sensual, dramatic story with a unique twist," Eternity's creative director Tom Mason said. "Radu can break off his fingers, which then transform into the subspecies, unearthly creatures ready to do his bidding. I love those little guys!"

Subspecies, a film based on an idea by Charles Band and scripted by Jackson Barr, should appear sometime in 1991. As with their ***Puppet Master*** title, Eternity isn't actually adapting ***Subspecies*** to comics; instead, their comic will feature new stories based on the concepts and characters presented in the film. No creative team for the comic has been announced; as soon as it is, ***CSN*** will let you know.

by KIM B. PEARSON

Toxic Avenger Wastes No Time Moving Into Comics

The Toxic Avenger is a sort of "success in spite of itself." The Troma Film ***Toxic Avenger,*** a twisted spoof of comic book superhero stories, is the tale of a mop boy turned into a hero after an unpleasant incident involving toxic wastes. The first film was such a surprise hit that a second ***Toxic Avenger*** movie was made--and it was equally popular! And now, in a strange example of irony, the Toxic Avenger is moving into the very medium he first satirized--comic books!

The Toxic Avenger #1, the February component of Marvel's 1991 "Wild Ones" first-issue program, features the origin of the Toxic Avenger in a story entitled "A Hideously Deformed Creature of Superhuman Size and Strength Is Born" (and you can see how seriously this title takes itself, can't you?...) The story, set in Tromaville, reveals how Melvin the Mop Boy becomes the victim of a practical joke that exposes him to toxic wastes produced by Apocalypse, Inc., a corrupt corporation whose major goal is to toxify Tromaville.

So is this serious? Is it satire? Well, the answer is yeah, sort of. Toxic Avenger will try to take a middle ground between humor and suspenseful terror--but whichever way the story leans, it'll always include lots of action. Jim Salicrup, editor of ***Toxic Avenger***, says that the book will contain the things that fans of the film have come to expect--"sick, twisted, violent, but funny stuff."

Toxic Avenger #1, a February 14th release, is written by Doug Moench and illustrated by Rod Ramos and Val Mayerik. Each monthly issue will be priced at $1.50.

by WAYNE LEE

If I Had a Hammer...

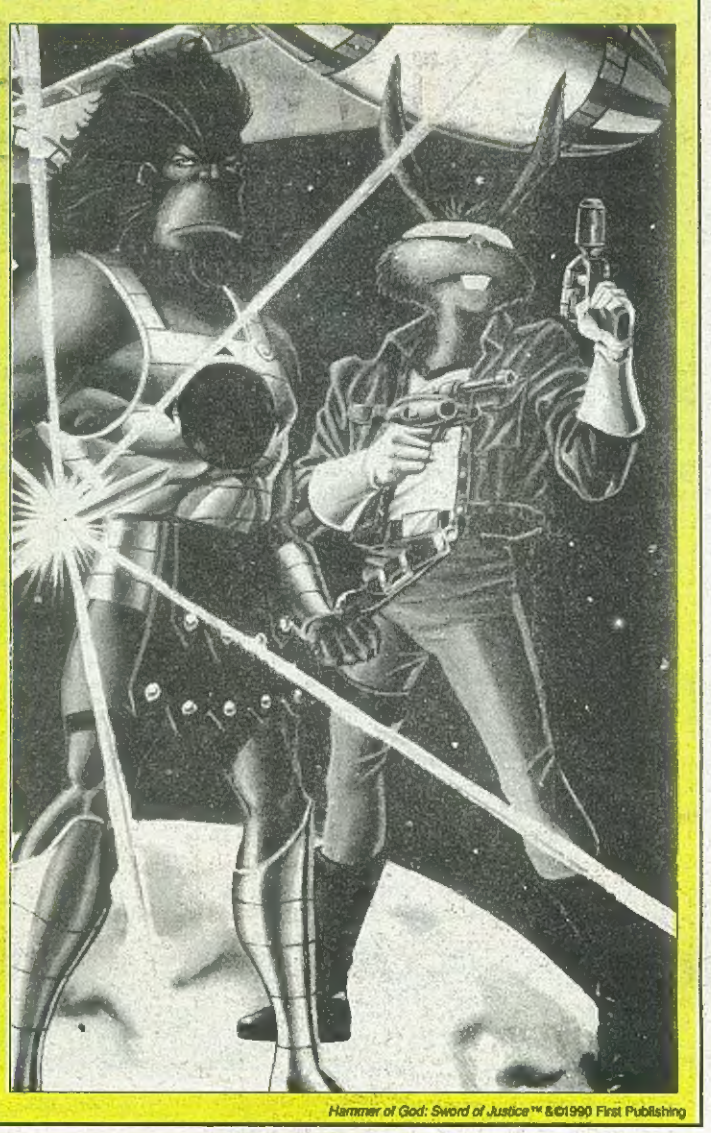
First Comics is wrapping up their regular monthly comics line in the next few weeks--but that doesn't mean that First is getting out of the comics biz! In fact, First feels that the change from monthly titles to miniseries gives them a hitherto-unrealized freedom to produce the sort of books fans want to see without having to worry with fill-in issues, late deadlines, and the like. For their first project, First has called on one of ***Nexus'*** most popular supporting characters, Judah the Hammer, to star in an all-new two-issue prestige-format limited series to follow up last year's successful ***Hammer of God.***

"After last year's ***Hammer of God*** miniseries, we got so many requests for another all-Judah title that we decided to launch our line of prestige-format limited series with the all-new ***Hammer of God: Sword of Justice***--a divine inspiration if ever there was one!" First said. ***Sword of Justice*** focuses on the impending war between the Bad Brains and the Heads--with Judah caught in the middle.

The same team that produced the first ***Hammer of God*** limited series has come back for ***Hammer of God: Sword of Justice.*** Mike Baron and Roger Salick are co-writing the series, which is illustrated by Steve Epting. Epting is also painting the covers for both prestige-format issues.

Hammer of God: Sword of Justice #1, a 48-page prestige format series priced at $4.95, is scheduled for February 28th release.

by WAYNE LEE



Hammer of God: Sword of Justice™ &©1990 First Publishing

NEWSBRIEFS

NOW IF ONLY THE TORCH HAD HIS OWN TITLE...

If you aren't careful, you might think it's the Golden Age of comics again! On January 3rd, Captain America celebrates his official 50th anniversary with a 64-page gala issue--and at the same time he also guest-stars in ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #12***, an issue that reunites the original team of Golden Age heroes Invaders.

Captain America 383 celebrates a half-century of Cap's existence with a lead story that celebrates Captain America's official status as a legendary character. So what makes a legend? Well, according to other legendary character Johnny Appleseed, Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and John Henry, all Cap has to do is to die!... This story is written by Mark **Gruenwald** and illustrated by **Ron Lim**.

Back-up stories in the issue include a **Tom DeFalco/Ron Frenz** piece that re-presents Captain America's first World War II meeting with Sgt. Fury as originally seen in ***Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos 13***--only this time, it's told from Cap's point of view. **Mark Gruenwald** and **Mark Bagley** present a battle royale between USAgent and the duo of Left-Winger and Right-Winger; the final **Gruenwald**-written backup spotlights the Red Skull and Crossbones. (no artist has been announced for this story so far...you might say it's still in the *skeletal* stage...) Meanwhile, ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #12*** brings the Invaders back together again as they fight the resurrected villains Master Man and Warrior Woman. Captain America, Namor, the Human Torch, Union Jack, and Spitfire (making her official return to the Marvel Universe) are all present for this special reunion. Namor the Sub-Mariner #12 will be a special 48-page issue. Could it be the precursor to a revived ***Invaders*** series? ***Captain America #383***, priced at $2, and ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #12***, priced at $1.50, are both scheduled for January 3rd release.

Stinz™ &©1990 Donna Barr

STINZ GALLOPS TO NEW PUBLISHER

Stinz, the half-horse hero whose exploits have previously been published by Fantagraphics, finds a new home at Brave New Words beginning in January. ***Stinz Volume II #1***, a 32-page no-ads quarterly comic, will continue the story of the half-horse inhabitants of Geisel Valley. "On A Pale Horse," the new story that appears in the first issue, is a sort of introduction to new readers; it uses the death of Stinz Lowhard's sire as a motivation for a flashback to Stinz's early days in the army and his war experiences. **Donna Barr**, the creator of Stinz, will continue as writer/artist of the series ***Stinz Volume II #1*** is priced at $2.50.

The Spirit™ &©1990 Will Eisner

UNSEEN SPIRITS

Spirit #75, on sale in January, will reprint four 1951 Spirit stories that have never been reprinted since their initial appearance almost forty years ago. The stories all date from the "last era" of the Spirit, when **Will Eisner** had left the day-to-day handling of the strip in the hands of writers **Jules Feiffer and Klaus Nordling** and a staff of studio artists. Eisner did, however, oversee the artwork and from time to time would contribute a face here or a layout there. These "last era" stories, which run from 1951 until the feature was cancelled in 1952 (to be replaced by **Wally Wood**'s Outer Space Spirit) are almost all unreprinted. ***Spirit #75***, a $2 comic, will also have a section on Eisner's work for the military magazine ***P*S***.

THE SHADOW'S PACKING A ROD--WHIGHAM, THAT IS...

Fans first had a chance to see artist **Rod Whigham**'s interpretation of The Shadow during the four-part Shadow-Doc Savage crossover from last year. Fans will have their next chance to see Rod Whigham's interpretation of the Shadow beginning with ***The Shadow Strikes! #17***, when he becomes the regular artist on the series. Whigham is joined by new inker **Gerry Fernandez**; writer **Gerard Jones** will continue handling the scripting honors on the title. ***Shadow Strikes! #17*** reveals the true identity of Number One--an identity so secret that not even the Shadow knows who Number One really is. But we'll all know on February 7th...

NEMESIS HAS HIS FRIENDS

CSN receives scads of press releases, news briefs, and the likes from publishers each month--but in what may well be a first for us, we recently received a news squib from a dedicated fan. **Steven Feldman**, a Rhode Island ***CSN*** reader who's been with us since the first issue, dropped us a note recently to point out that "Fleetway Comics is soon to begin reprinting material never before seen by the American market in an upcoming issue of their ***Nemesis the Warlock Limited Edition***...a mention of the coming new material in ***Comic Shop News*** would probably more than quadruple sales." Feldman goes on to point out that ***Nemesis*** has previously appeared in a seven-issue series from Eagle Comics and in all eighteen issues of the Quality ***Spellbinders*** title. Fans who enjoy **Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neill**'s work on the fan-fave ***Marshal Law*** should really appreciate a chance to see this previously unreprinted Mills-O'Neill material--and thanks for the info, Steven!...

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER YEAR IN REVIEW!

Last year's ***Marvel 1989 Year in Review***, done much like an issue of ***Time Magazine***, was such a smash that they're doing it again! The ***Marvel 1990 Year in Review***, a 48-page magazine-sized publication that offers looks back at the Marvel Universe of fashion, science, gossip (and super-slugfests, of course), will feature a Captain America cover by **Kevin Maguire** (who's hard at work on the ***Captain America*** bookshelf-format limited series he's doing with author **Fabian Nicieza**). The ***Marvel Universe 1990 Year in Review***, priced at $3.95, is slated for December 20th release (obviously Marvel doesn't expect any really Marvel-Universe-shattering occurrences in the last week of the year, huh?).

MAYBE HE SHOULD CONTACT DR. REINSTEIN...

Legends of the Dark Knight #16 begins the fourth five-part Batman storyline in this title--and **Denny O'Neil**, who wrote the kickoff storyline "Shaman," returns to reprise his scripter role with "Venom." In this miniseries-within-a-series, Batman comes to the realization that simply being the best man he can be may not be sufficient--but a solution may be at hand. A chemist has developed an experimental drug that will increase Batman's strength and stamina ten-fold--but it hasn't been tested on humans, and he has no idea what the side-effects might be. Will Batman risk it? Can he afford not to? This is the dilemma Batman faces.

"Venom" is illustrated by **Trevor Von Eeden** and **Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez**; this marks Von Eeden's long-awaited return to DC after a lengthy hiatus (of course, Garcia-Lopez has been busily at work on ***Twilight*** for DC--and it should be on the stands any week now!...). ***Legends of the Dark Knight #16*** is scheduled for February 7th release.

VIZ HAS COLORFUL VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Now that Viz has announced its first two color projects, ***Gunhed*** (debuting in a few weeks) and ***Golgo 13*** (scheduled for early 1991), there are some other projects being considered for color treatment. Viz is looking at ***Ranma 1/2, Fist of the North Star, Crying Freeman Part III, Goku***, and the ever-popular ***2001 Nights***. Viz publisher Seiji Horibuchi and publicist Chris Juricich report that no firm decisions have been made yet--but if **CSN**'s readers have preferences, they should send 'em to us and we'll forward that info to Viz!

What would you like to see in full color? Here's your chance to be heard!

AT LEAST THE SILVER SURFER ISN'T BORED...

The Silver Surfer is the star of ***What If #22***, a story that shows fans what would have happened if the Silver Surfer had remained trapped on Earth. In this tale, he joins the Fantastic Four, creating a super-team that no bad guy would want to face. Well, almost no bad guy...

Mephisto takes advantage of the Surfer's new-found team status to apply a little leverage of his own; he captures the Fantastic Four and holds them hostage, threatening to kill them unless the Surfer surrenders his soul! ***What If #22*** is written by **Ron Marz** and illustrated by **Ron Lim** and **Terry Austin**; look for it on December 20th.

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF COMIC-SHOP-LAND

Remember ***Famous Monsters of Filmland***? If you were a comics fan in the 1960's or 1970's, you probably do; this famous Warren publication (released by the same company responsible for ***Creepy***, ***Eerie***, and ***Vampirella***) was the premiere magazine for horror fans, and in many ways it paved a path for such publication as ***Starlog***, ***Fangoria***, and others. In each issue, editor **Forrest J. Ackerman** put together articles, behind-the-scenes retrospectives, and sneak previews of new horror and science fiction films. He spiced the text with photos taken from one of the largest collections of horror stills in the world; the result was a magazine that was a must-read for such young fans as **Stephen King, George Lucas, John Carpenter, Steven Spielberg,** and **Rick Baker**, just to name a few.

Famous Monsters of Filmland is long gone, alas--but the contents of those early issues will be returning in ***Monsterama***, a new magazine from Monster Comics. Each all-ages issue will feature 64 pages of material compiled from the pages of ***Famous Monsters of Filmland***, presented in black and white with spot color. The first all-ages issue ships in December. If you *ever* enjoyed ***Famous Monsters of Filmland***, you'll want to add ***Monsterama*** to your must-have list.

Steed & Peel™ &©1990Weintraub Ent.

AN AP-PEEL-ING QUESTION...

Whatever happened to *Mister* Peel? That's the question that's explored in the backup story in ***Steed and Mrs. Peel #2***, a January release from Eclipse. In this story written by British playwright **Anne Caulfield**, readers are taken to the English resort of Pringle-On-Sea to find out just what happened after the end of the last ***Avengers*** television episode. Of course, the lead story, "The Golden Game," continues Steed and Peel's search for the missing Tara King. **Grant Morrison** is the writer of the three-part Steed and Mrs. Peel storyline; **Ian Gibson** is handling the art for both the ongoing serial and the backup story. (By the way, if you want to get in the mood for this Eclipse series, you can catch the original ***Avengers*** episodes on Arts and Entertainment network any weekday evening at 6 pm EST--and then you'll see just what it was about the ***Avengers*** that drew such a fan following when it originally aired in the 1960's...)

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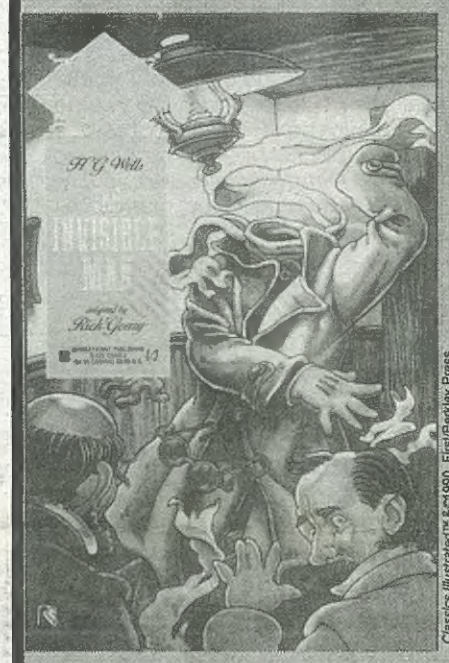
NEWSBRIEFS

CLASSICS ON DOUBLE-TIME

Classics Illustrated has been so successful for first that the company is doubling their output beginning in early 1991. In February, First has two new Classics scheduled: **H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man*** (adapted by **Rick Geary**, turning in his third ***Classics*** title since the line debuted) and **Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*** (adapted by **Mark W. Harris** and illustrated by **Ray Lago**, whose art garnered a great deal of attention in Marvel's short-lived ***Open Space*** series). In March, fans can enjoy **Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Books*** (adapted by **Jeffrey Busch**, the artistic find whose ***Rip Van Winkle*** was such a hit last year) and **Rostand's *Cyrano De Bergerac*** (adapted by fan-fave **Peter David** and illustrated by **Kyle Baker**, back for his second ***Classics Illustrated***). Each classic is priced at $3.95 for 48 pages in prestige format.



MAYBE HE AND JOHN CARTER GET TOGETHER AND SWAP STORIES...

He's a hero who found himself transported through space from his home planet of Earth to a land filled with beautiful women, exotic warriors, and dangerous inhuman creatures. **Edgar Rice Burroughs'** John Carter? Not this time, bunky--we're talking about **Robert E. Howard's *Almuric*** here. This John-Carter-ish story was adapted into comics form in Marvel's ***Epic Illustrated*** by **Roy Thomas** (who returns to Robert E. Howard's ***Conan*** this January) and **Tim Conrad**, but it hasn't been seen since that magazine was discontinued many, many years ago. Now Dark Horse has secured the rights to reprnt the entire 72-page full color story as a graphic novel in January. ***Almuric*** will feature a new painted cover by Conrad, whose has done all too little comics work since this series first appeared. ***Almuric*** is priced at $10.95.

CALLIN' FOR COMICS NEWS

There are all sorts of 900 numbers out there, but up until now, there's never been one devoted to comic books. ***Comics News*** is just such a service, though: its creator, **Richard Pachter**, plans to offer three-minute newsbits via phone for 95¢ a minute. The service will update the news on Friday and Tuesday nights; Pachter promises to include "helpful data to all, from the casual reader to the most obsessive, triple-bagging fanatic." The number for Comics News (no connection to ***CSN***, in case you're wondering) is 1 (900) 420-6397. Of course, those of you who want your news the old-fashioned and less-expensive way will still be able to get the inside scoop each week in ***CSN***...

BATMAN™ by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

ONE MAN, ONE DREAM...
SPREAD THE WORD ...ONE MILLION BUCKS FOR THE BATMAN--DEAD OR ALIVE!
AND ALL ACROSS THE CITY, HOODS, DRUG ADDICTS, PIMPS, PUSHERS, THIEVES AND WISE-GUYS SUDDENLY HAVE A NEW HOBBY!
12/03/90
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
IT IS TIME FOR EVEN GOOD LITTLE BATS TO BE IN BED...
NOT THAT I'M WORRIED. NOT AT ALL.
WHERE ARE YOU, MASTER BRUCE?
UUUHH
BOY, I WISH YOU'D WAKE UP. I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING!
12/04/90
LOOK! IT'S THE CAR BATMAN'S IN!
BLAST IT!
BRRRAAATTAATTAA
BLAMM BLAMM
YIKES! WHO INVITED THESE GUYS?
SCRASH!!
12/05/90
STILL FIRING, THE HOODS TRY TO SIDESWIPE ROBIN...
BRAATTAATTTAA
CAN'T HOLD THE WHEEL... BUT WHAT IF I BRAKE...?
WE GOT HIM... HEY! WHAT'S HE DOIN'...?
JUST THEN, THE ROAD CURVES AND...
CRASH!
12/06/90
NEAR A DESERTED ROADSIDE DINER...
LET'S SEE IF I HAVE ALL THE FACTS.
DINER
YOU'VE BEEN SHOT ...I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL OR THE POLICE...
AND EVERY HOOD IN THE CITY IS GUNNING FOR US!
I THOUGHT KNOWING THE FACTS WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!
12/07/90
MAYBE I SHOULD FIND OUT WHO I'M HELPING!
NOTHING. I WAS HOPING YOU WERE A TV STAR OR SOMEBODY.
12/08/90
I WONDER IF BATMAN CARRIES ID?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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CSN HOT PICKS!

DECEMBER HOT PICKS!

BY CLIFF BIGGERS

It's the end of the year--and that means it's also holiday season, so you know that there's a ton of great material set to hit the comic shop racks between now and Christmas. All of us here at CSN want to be sure that you don't miss the real gems in the deluge, so here's a list of the Hot Two Dozen for December.

Aliens Vs. Predator 4

After a seventh-inning stretch, Dark Horse has brought in a relief ~~pitcher~~ artist in the person of Chris Warner, who'll finish up this story with a real visual bang. So far, ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** has been the most successful of any Dark Horse title--and that was before the added draw of an artist with Chris Warner's fan following! *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Avatar Comics 1

This is an epic TSR-based series that brings gods into man's world on a grand quest--in other words, just the sort of fantasy adventure that you'd expect. What you might not expect, however, is that Barbara Kesel and Dameon Willich are presenting this story in three 96-page issues beginning in December, giving fans more pages than they get in an average graphic novel for a real bargain price. (And isn't it great to see this trend towards bigger comic-book packages, what with ***Avatar, Ms. Tree Quarterly,*** and ***Marvel Super-Heroes***?) *(DC, $5.95)*

Batman: Bride of the Demon HC

Batman hardcovers have a great track record; thus far, they've almost all been instant sellouts, climbing quickly in price in a matter of months. This hardcover has something even better going for it: it's a sequel to the extremely popular ***Batman: Son of the Demon.*** The art this time around is by Tom Grindberg, whose Neal Adams-ish style is gaining him quite a following. If your holiday budget is a little too tight to pick this one up for yourself, be sure to let someone know what a great gift idea it'd be--because you certainly won't want to miss it. *(DC, $19.95)*

Batman: Bride of the Demon ™ &©1990 DC Comics

Epicurus the Sage ™ &©1990 Messner-Loebs and Kleth

Billy Nguyen 1

Sassy, irreverent, clever, hardboiled, fast-paced--all of these adjectives describe ***Billy Nguyen***, the latest entry in a growing group of mystery-detective comics. ***Billy Nguyen*** might remind readers of the John Byrne ***She-Hulk*** run at times--Nguyen makes it clear that he knows that he's in a comic book, going through the fictional-character motions--but it never lets wit constrain plot. This is one that's quite probably underordered, so don't expect it to sit on the shelves for long. *(Caliber, $2.95)*

THE BEST GIFTS ARE HARD TO KEEP UNDER WRAPS!
DO NOT OPEN UNTIL X-MAS
STOCKING STUFFERS
BATMAN: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT
BATMAN: A LONELY PLACE OF DYING
BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE*
BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION
LEX LUTHOR: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY
SUPERMAN: THE EARTH STEALERS
GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD SERIES
BATMAN
JOKER
GOLDEN AGE
SUPERMAN
TEAM-UP
1950'S
BATMAN BOOKS
BATMAN 3-D
ARKHAM ASYLUM
THE DAILIES
THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS
DIGITAL JUSTICE
BRIDE OF THE DEMON
SON OF THE DEMON
YEAR ONE
YEAR TWO
ARCHIVE SERIES
BATMAN ARCHIVES #1
SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #1
SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #2
OTHER GREAT DC BOOKS
ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL
THE PRISONER: SHATTERED VISAGE
SANDMAN: THE DOLL'S HOUSE*
THE SHADOW: BLOOD & JUDGEMENT*
SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING*
SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH*
SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL
WATCHMEN*
V FOR VENDETTA*
*FOR MATURE READERS
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Cages ™ &©1990 Dave McKean

Bill Sienkiewicz Sketchbook

Fantagraphics first announced this several months ago, but production delays have pushed it back to the holiday season. That's bad in a way, since it means that there's another higher-ticket hot pick on this month's list--but again, it gives you a chance to put the book on your Christmas wish list instead. If you have ever wanted to see just how Bill Sienkiewicz developed from a talented comic book craftsman to one of the most influential trend-setters in the medium, then this book is for you. *(Fantagraphics, $19.95; also available in a $35 hardcover)*

Billy Nguyen ™ &©1990 Stan Shaw

Cages 1

Dave McKean goes solo in this premiere issue of a ten-issue limited series that explores the questions that almost everyone has asked at one time or another--such as where did we come from, how did we get here, and for what purpose? Of course, McKean does it in a rather surreal way--but that's not a surprise to anyone who's

CSN HOT PICKS!

seen McKean's acclaimed art on such books as ***Black Orchid*** and ***Arkham Asylum,*** is it?... (Tundra, $3.50)

Colour of Magic 1

Innovation has found its niche in its growing line of adaptations--in fact, this is one of two high-profile adaptations from Innovation on the Hot Picks list this month. ***Colour of Magic*** is based on Terry Pratchett's Diskworld novels, set in a fantasy world unlike anything you're seen in comics. This is a fully painted book in the same format as The Vampire Lestat--but the story is certainly much more upbeat. *(Innovation, $2.50)*

Elektra Lives Again HC

Here it is--*the* Hot Pick for December. Frank Miller and Lynn Varley have finally completed their long-awaited (and we mean long-awaited) graphic novel that brings Elektra back into Daredevil's life. You'll have to have this one, just to see what everyone will be imitating in the next year or so. *(Marvel, $24.95)*

Epicurus the Sage Book Two GN

Sam Kieth has become much more prominent since his work on ***Aliens: Earth War,*** so there'll be a lot of new readers looking for this clever William Messner-Loebs-penned graphic novel just for the Kieth art. Remember, though, that the first ***Epicurus the Sage*** was Piranha's first graphic novel to sell out its entire print run--so obviously the book has quite a following on its own! Messner-Loebs mix of mythology, philosophy, and adventure is hard to describe--but easy to enjoy. *(Piranha, $9.95)*

Ghost Rider are quite a team to beat--but just to make sure you can't resist this issue, there's a Punisher cameo as well! This is also some of the best art that Art Adams has produced in a couple of years, so art fans are sure to make this issue a fast sellout. *(Marvel, $1)*

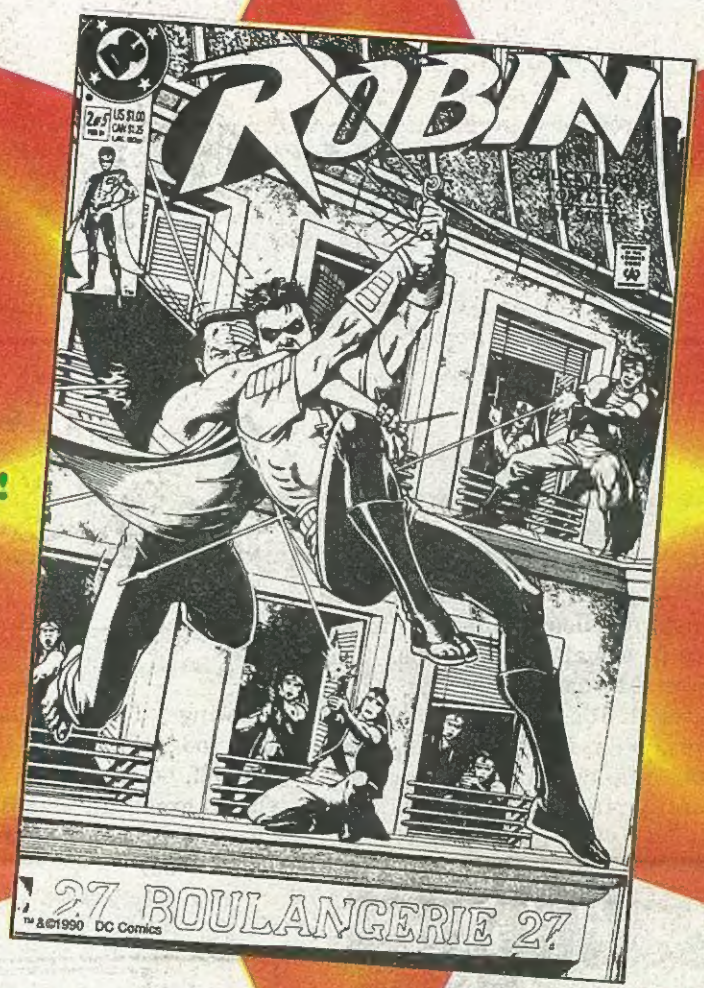
Flash fans who will be looking for a book like ***The Greatest Flash Stories Ever Told*** to present the inside scoop on all three Flashes. There's a half-century of comics history in this hefty hardcover--and hours worth of fine entertainment. *(DC, $29.95)*

legendary; the Atlantis story from ***FF Annual #1*** opened the door to every Atlantis tale since then. They don't get much better than this! *(Marvel, $29.95)*

Monsterama 1

If you grew up in the early 1960's, you probably remember ***Famous Monsters of Filmland***, Forrest J. Ackerman's seminal horror-film magazine. ***Famous Monsters*** was packed with photos, articles, behind-the-scenes info, and historical overviews--and no one could put it all together with more panache than Forry. Now Monster Comics is reprinting the highlights from ***Famous Monsters of FIlmland*** in this new title, ***Monsterama.*** Filmmakers like Steven Spielberg and George Romero got their first tastes of the fantastic in this magazine--and now you can enjoy the same flavors without paying connoisseurs' prices. *(Monster, $3.50)*

Cover of the Month!



Robin 2

Fire Team 1

Don Lomax ventures into a new field--horror--but at the same time he doesn't forget his Vietnam Journal fans. ***Fire Team*** is a horror tale with a Vietnam spin, so his old fans will be happy, as will new fans who pick up this archetypal "guardian-angel" storyline with a grim twist. *(Aircel, $2.50)*

Marvel Masterworks Volume 13: Fantastic Four

This Masterworks is rescheduled from September--but it'd be a Hot Pick whatever month it was released! It would be a real challenge to assemble eleven more memorable or important stories than those found in this book. The two-part battle between the Fantastic Four and the Hulk has been the model for epic hero-confrontations ever since it appeared; the Hate-Monger story first introduced Nick Fury to the modern Marvel universe; the X-Men-Fantastic Four crossover is near-

New Adventures of Cholly and Flytrap 1

Arthur Suydam may not be a household name, even in comics fans' houses, but it's not because of lack of talent. Suydam's previous works have been bogged down in the continual delays of another publisher--but Marvel's making sure that we all get to enjoy this quirky post-apocalyptic series. Suydam's work (reminiscent at times of Wrightson, Frazetta, Williamson, and Jones) is the sort of stuff that everyone will be talking about a year from now; you may as well pick ***Cholly and Flytrap*** up now and save yourself some money when the prices go up... *(Marvel, $4.95)*

Fantastic Four 349

The final installment of the Walt Simonson-Art Adams "new Fantastic Four" storyline is a must-have. The Hulk, Wolverine, Spider-Man, and

Greatest Flash Stories Ever Told HC

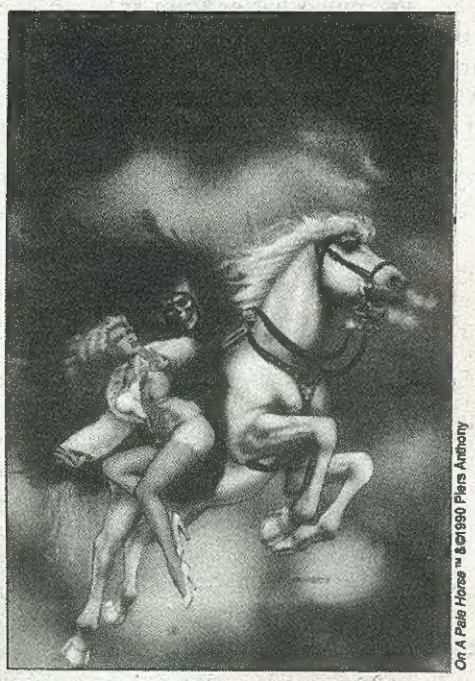
The Flash is wowing 'em on the teevee screen every Thursday night; that means that there are millions of new

New Titans 73

At least one Titan is dead, and another doesn't look any too well. Collectors know what a superhero death does for a storyline's sales; since this storyline is also a crucial revitaliza-

CSN HOT PICKS!

tion of the Titans team, that gives any Titans fan a double incentive to pick up this issue and find out just what happens to Aqualad. *(DC, $1.75)*



On a Pale Horse

Piers Anthony's top-selling Incarnations of Immortality series comes to comics in this prestige-format limited series. On a Pale Horse is the story of a man who defeats death--literally--only to find that he now must take Death's place! This is Innovation's second hot-pick adaptation this month; of the two, this one has the most heat in its favor. Don't expect it to sit on the shelves for long! *(Innovation $4.95)*

Predator II Movie Adaptation

Dark Horse has two successful ***Predator*** projects behind it--the first limited series and the ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** series--so who else could produce a sizzler movie adaptation? The film is already wowing 'em at the box office (and a lot of comics fans are wondering if the scriptwriters ever flipped through Mark Verheiden's first ***Predator*** limited series...); the comic is sure to do the same at the comic shops. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Puppet Master 1

This is a case of a comics adaptations surpassing its source material; the Lumsden and DeVries ***Puppet Master*** series proves that some concepts work even better in comics than they do in film. This is Eternity's first color series, and it's accompanied by a hefty push in video stores across the country; this should draw in a lot of potential readers for this new title, so an early sellout seems likely. *(Eternity, $2.50)*

Robin 2

If you blinked, you missed the first printing of ***Robin 1***; its land-speed-record sellout was equalled only by ***Superman 50.*** At least DC was generous enough to reprint ***Robin 1*** for those fans who missed the first issue; they aren't likely to repeat the favor for the second issue, so don't blow it!... *(DC, $1)*

Spider-Man 7

Todd McFarlane's Spider-Man Meets Ghost Rider storyline comes to a conclusion in this issue; with ***Spider-Man*** and ***Ghost Rider*** both producing a lot of heat on the Marvel sales charts, you can expect this Spidey two-parter to sell...well, like *any* issue

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____

Address _____

_____

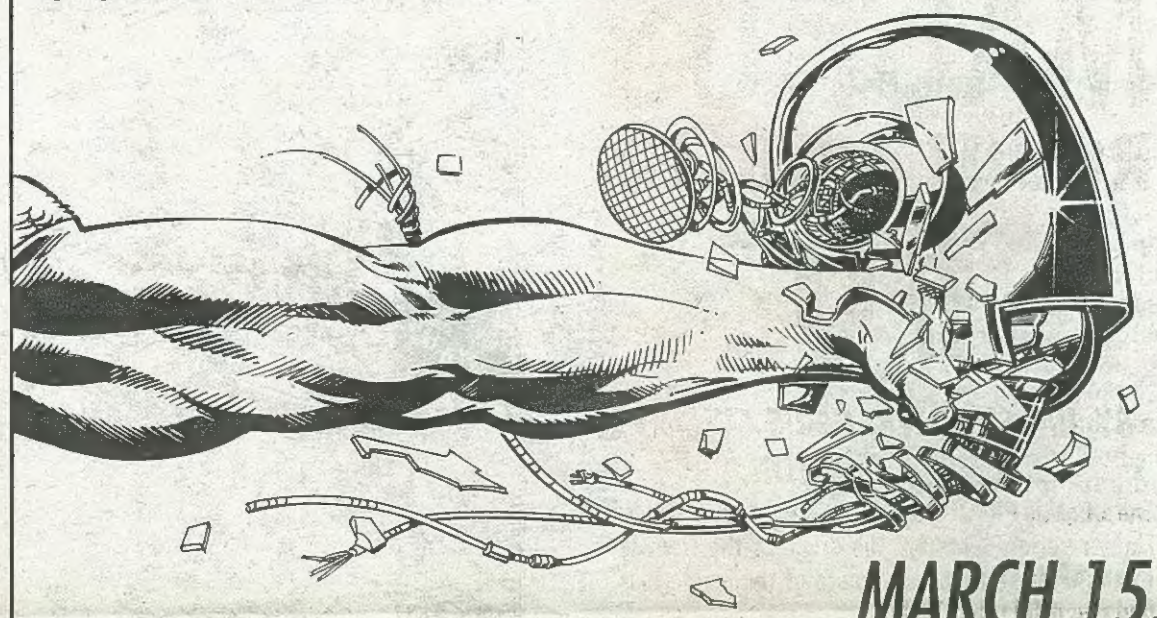
Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to ***CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!

COMING THROUGH.



MARCH 15.

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #1

CONTINUING THE LEGEND OF THE GREATEST SCIENCE FICTION SUPER HERO OF ALL TIME IN AN ALL- NEW MONTHLY SERIES IN FULL PAINTED COLOR. $1.75

THE FIRST FOUR ISSUES FEATURE "STEEL NATION", A MEGA SAGA BY JIM SHOOTER, ART NICHOLS AND BOB LAYTON.

THE FIRST EIGHT ISSUES FEATURE THE INCREDIBLE, FULL COLOR MAGNUS TRADING CARD COLLECTION FREE INSIDE!

ARTISTS INCLUDE TERRY AUSTIN, BRET BLEVINS, PARIS CULLINS, STAN DRAKE, MIKE HARRIS, JOE KUBERT, STEVE LEIALOHA, JOE RUBINSTEIN, ALAN WEISS AND OTHER TOP NAMES!

AND THEN COMES...

CSN HOT PICKS!

of Todd McFarlane's ***Spider-Man*** (and that's saying quite a lot). This book shows no signs of cooling off--and next issue's Wolverine crossover should keep ***Spider-Man*** above the boiling point. *(Marvel, $1.75)*

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volume One

So far, everyone's reprinted the Eastman-Laird ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** storylines in a variety of formats; now Tundra is cleverly collecting together the Archie *TMNT* storylines that are in the same vein as the hit animated series. This is a bargain package priced to appeal to cartoon fans on a budget; however, the high production values and lavish recoloring of this material will make it much more popular with the older *TMNT* fan as well. *(Tundra, $9.95)*

World's Worst Comics Awards 1

What fan can resist a chance to find out what's the worst the comics industry has produced in the past twenty-five years? This new Kitchen Sink series recognizes all the comics turkeys in a must-have package. *(Kitchen Sink, $2.50)*

X-Men 273

This follow-up to the X-Tinction Agenda storyline is an artist all-star jam issue; art fans will have to pick it up just to see who picks up a pencil to join Jim Lee in this X-travaganza. *(Marvel, $1)*

Overlooked Gem of the Month

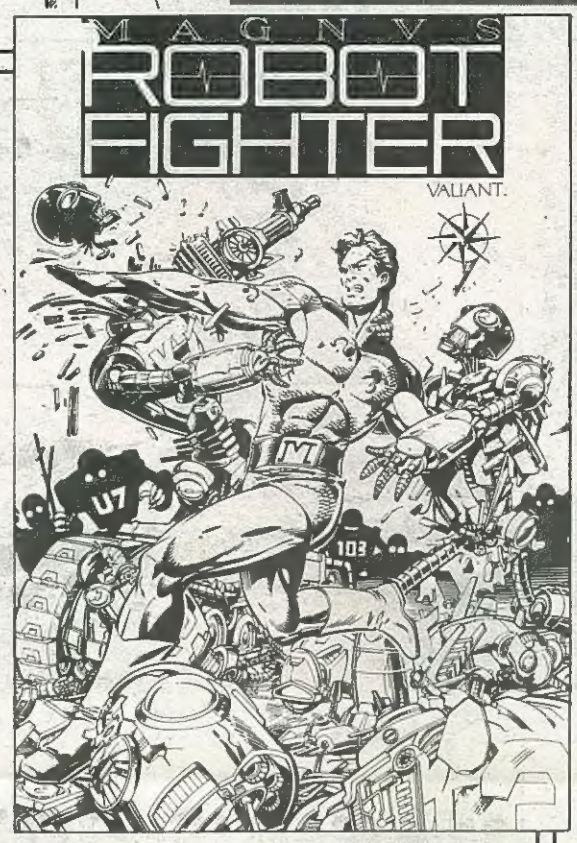
Roy Thomas made ***Conan*** one of the best-selling comics of the early 1970's; while that was a time when heroic fantasy was still fresh, ***Conan***'s success was due in large part to Thomas's skill at telling Howardian tales. After years of humdrum Conan tales broken by an occasional bright storyline, ***Conan*** fans now have something to look forward to: Roy Thomas is back on one of the titles that helped build his reputation. If you've ever enjoyed well-done heroic fantasy, you'll want to take a look at ***Conan 241***--it's the issue that leads off with that eye-catching Todd McFarlane cover!

ADVERTISEMENT

MAGNUS
ROBOT FIGHTER
#0

BY JIM SHOOTER, PARIS CULLINS AND BOB LAYTON.

The stunning PREQUEL to the all-new Magnus Robot Fighter series, featuring the origin of the freewill robots and the first appearance of the mysterious and beautiful robot Tekla.

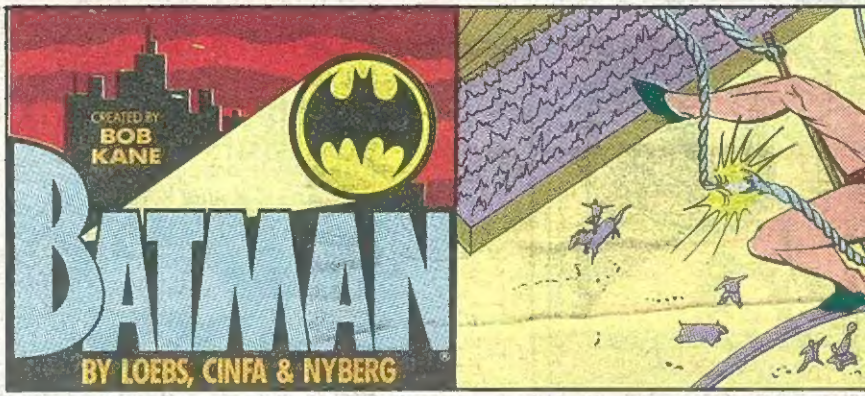


AN HOUR LATER, IN THE HOME OF THE HONORABLE SENATOR ISSAMAN CLAWS AND HIS DAUGHTER, LEKLIA...
SORRY I'M LATE SENATOR. I WAS DELAYED.
DON'T WORRY, MAGNUS. S-U TELLS ME THAT LEKLIA JUST ARRIVED HOME FROM THE GRAV-RACQUET CLUB. SHE'LL BE AWHILE.
BLANNG!
KRRANNG
SQUEEEE

THERE'S A CATCH. IT'S FREE!

All you have to do is collect the coupons in the first eight issues of Magnus Robot Fighter. We'll redeem them for a FREE copy of Magnus Robert Fighter #0, AND a special bonus Magnus Robot Fighter trading card, by Barry Windsor-Smith.

There will be a charge of 50¢ for postage and handling. A limited number of copies ***without the Barry Windsor-Smith card*** will be made made available to retailers directly from Voyager on the following basis: five copies of Magnus Robot Fighter #0 per each fifty copies of Magnus Robot Fighter #1 ordered. Retailers will be required to provide VALIANT a photocopy of their distributor's invoice showing their order for Magnus Robot Fighter #1.

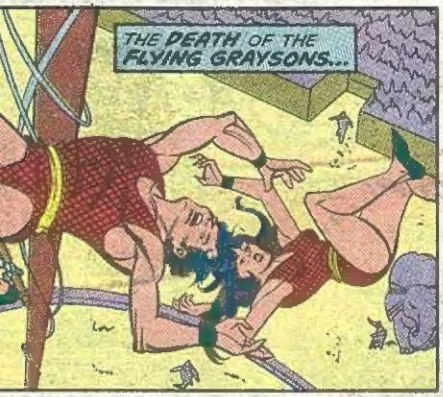

CREATED BY
BOB
KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

GIGGLES MORAN RETURNS TO FIND...
THE BATMAN! HE MUST'VE BEEN HURT BAD!

HELP ME GET HIM INTO TH' CAR!

THAT FIXES THEM! AND THEY CAN'T HURT THE BATMOBILE!
BLAMM
BLAMM

GOOD THING I LEARNED HOW TO DRIVE THE CARNIVAL TRACTORS!
THE FREEWAY'S ALMOST DESERTED!



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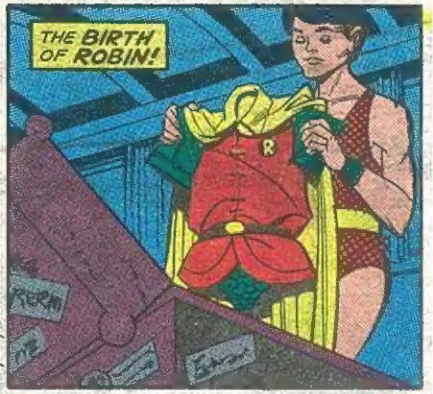

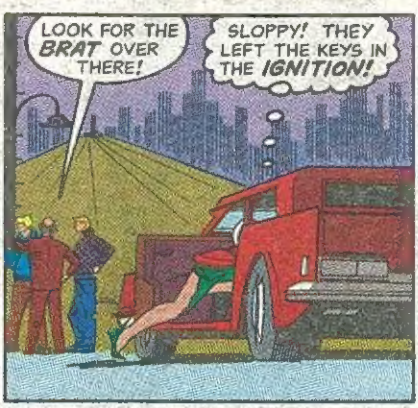

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THIS COULD BE GOOD! WE KNOW THE CAR... WE KNOW THE LICENSE! CONTACT THE MOB AN' HAVE 'EM SPREAD OUT!
THERE'S A MILLION BUCKS F'R THE FIRST ONE T'GET BATMAN... DEAD OR ALIVE!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG